

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122938
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS STATE 122938

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF NATO SCIENCE
PROGRAM

REF: USNATO 3907

1. WE CONSIDER IT UNREALISTIC TO PROPOSE A 37 PERCENT
INCREASE IN THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY WHEN
THE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT MANY OF THE REDUCTIONS MADE
IN THE PAST WERE PROPOSED BY THE U.S. WE ALSO BELIEVE
THAT IT IS STRETCHING A POINT TO QUOTE PRESIDENT CARTER'S
STATEMENT OF MAY 10 TO JOIN OUR PARTNERS "IN EVERY WAY
TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE, POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY,
AND MILITARILY" TO JUSTIFY THIS PROPOSED INCREASE.
REALISTICALLY, WE SHOULD ONLY PROPOSE INCREASES WHICH
ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL U.S. BUDGET POLICY.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE FAVOR A REVERSAL OF THE
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TENDENCY TO HAVE THE SCIENCE PROGRAM CONTRACTED, AND
PROPOSALS TO INCREASE JOINTLY THE FUNDING OF THE NATO
SCIENCE COMMITTEE ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED. WE WOULD
CONSIDER IT REALISTIC THAT THE INCREASE BE WHATEVER
AMOUNT IS REQUIRED TO COMPENSATE FOR PRICE
AND WAGE INCREASES, PLUS A THREE PERCENT PROGRAM INCREASE

WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE INCREASE FOR
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

3. IN ANY CASE, WE CANNOT PROPOSE PROGRAMS INVOLVING
INCREASES IN EXCESS OF THOSE REFLECTED IN USNATO 3580.
THESE ARE THE FIGURES WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE
DEPARTMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO OMB, AND IT WOULD BE
TOTALLY UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT ULTIMATE APPROVAL OF
CONSIDERABLY HIGHER APPROPRIATIONS.

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